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EXAMINER

KIANERSI, MITRA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2143

DATE MAILED: 04/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

9

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/739,816

Applicant(s)

MALIK, DALE W.

Examiner

mitra kianersi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

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Claims 1-49 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gilmour et al. (US Patent No. 6,640,229).

1. As per claim 1, a method for managing a predetermined set of email messages on a source email server from a remote email network, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving an email message at the source email server, (FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating a knowledge access server) wherein said email message has a destination email address in a first field, a code in a second field and an instruction in a third field, wherein said destination email address corresponds to a subscriber account on the remote email network; (When the message 85 is sent over the normal e-mail transport, the following events occur: Recipients on the "to:" and "cc:" lists will receive a normal message with an extra header containing the encoded and encrypted options. This header is normally not displayed by systems that read e-mail and can be ignored by recipients; the recipients will not be aware that the knowledge gathering system has received a blind copy of the message; and If the sender chooses to archive a copy of the

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message 85, the e-mail address of the knowledge gathering system 28 will be retained in the "bcc" field as a reminder that the message was sent to the knowledge gathering server, col 13, lines 1-20)

(b) checking a database to determine a permission for the destination email address; and (for example, of a query against a knowledge profile database, is able visually to distinguish between profile terms that have been owner-submitted and those that are not owner-submitted, col 32, lines 36-43)

(c) performing the instruction on the set of email messages if the permission is granted. (For example, a determination may be made as to whether a match occurred against any further terms responsive to a query, col 32, lines 26-36)

2. As per claims 2 and 48, further comprising the step of populating the database with subscriber email addresses corresponding to subscriber accounts authorized to remotely manage email messages. (the method 301 commences at step 302, and then proceeds to step 306, where a document term within an electronic document generated by a user (i.e., the "query" user) is identified, col 21, lines 11-17)

3. As per claims 3 and 25, further comprising the step of populating the database with a device type associated with each subscriber email address, and wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of checking the database for the device type corresponding to the destination email address, determining if the device type is compatible with the instruction, and modifying the instruction according to the device type. (profile modification process, or Fig. 17E, is executed at step 352. Otherwise, a determination is made at decision box 354 as to whether the target user rejected the hit. If so, the hit is de-registered at step 356. Alternatively, if the target user accepted the hit, the public profile process described above with reference to FIG. 17C is executed at step 358. The method 314 then terminates at step 360, col 22, lines 25-52)

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4. As per claims 4 and 26, further comprising the step of receiving a second email message at the source email server, wherein said second email message comprises a local subscriber's identification in a message sender field and wherein said second email message comprises at least one subscriber email address in a message body field. (the profile terms allocated to the private portion of the user profile have a confidence value based on a contextual characteristic of the profile terms within an electronic document and the second pre-determined criterion is a threshold level for the confidence value, col 32, lines 65-67)
5. As per claim 5, 39 and 45, wherein the code comprises a predetermined data string and wherein the second field is a message subject field. (the profiling system 82 encrypts and encodes the following information into the message header, for transmission to and decoding by the knowledge gathering system 28, in accordance with Internet specification RFC, col 12, lines 39-57)
6. As per claim 6, wherein the first field is a message sender field. (when the user chooses to send the message, col 12, line 51)
7. As per claim 7 and 40, wherein the code comprises a predetermined data string and wherein the second field comprises a message addressee field. of addressing an electronic document, such as an e-mail, for transmission over a network, such as the Internet or an Intranet, Fig 18A and col 24, lines 56-61)
8. As per claim 8 and 41, wherein the predetermined string corresponds to an email account on the source server. (A user-created agent may be used as a template for other agents and can also be shared or traded among users. Such user created agents may be entered by the profile owners into the system through a portal interface to the knowledge system 22 (see FIG. 1) through, for instance, e-mail server, col 24, lines 14-22).
9. As per claims 9 and 24, further comprising the step of sending an information message to the destination email address if the permission is denied. (If the target user has not authorized such action (i.e., declined authorization), an inquiring user (e.g., the author user of an e-mail or a user performing a manual

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database search to locate an expert) is notified of the decline at step 512, col 27, lines 25-29).

10. As per claims 10 and 27, wherein the instruction is a retrieve command, and wherein in response to said instruction, step (c) comprises sending the predetermined set of email messages to the destination email address.

(method of facilitating a user profile query or look-up wherein, in response to a match between a query and a user profile, the owner of the user profile may be prompted for authorization to publish all (or a portion) of the user profile to the originator of the query or to others generally, col 6, lines 36-41)

11. As per claims 28, 11 and 47, wherein the instruction comprises a command and a criteria, and wherein in response to said instruction, step (c) further comprises the steps of searching a mailbox associated with the subscriber account to select the predetermined set of email messages according to the criteria. (search knowledge terms within the user's private profile, col 22, lines 61-64)

12. As per claims 12 and 29, wherein the command is a retrieve command. (the knowledge access server 26 retrieves the terms (i.e., the knowledge terms) that constituted the basis for the match, col 26, lines 10-13)

13. As per claims 13, 30 and 43, wherein the command is a delete command. the user then adds at his or her option, or deletes selected potential or "rejected" recipients (col 26, lines 46-51)

14. As per claims 14 and 31, wherein the command comprises a retrieve command and a delete command. (deletion from the user knowledge profile. (col 22, lines 50-51) and relevant knowledge term are retrieved, col 21, lines 40-46)

15. As per claims 15 and 32, wherein the criteria comprises a sender's name string. (A name column includes respective names for users for whom knowledge profiles are maintained within the repository 50, col 13, lines 33-35)

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16. As per claims 16 and 33, wherein the criteria comprises a subject string. (The user-document table 130 links documents to users, col 14, line 18)

17. As per claims 17 and 34, wherein the criteria comprises a date string. Each case gets an expiration date set by the inquirer and notification options regarding how the inquirer wants to be told about the disposition of the case, col 11, lines 9-11)

18. As per claims 18 and 35, wherein the criterion comprises a Boolean operation and a plurality of date strings. (the step is inherent, because any suitable syntax may be used for email message management)

19. As per claims 19 and 36, wherein the criteria comprises a subject string and a sender's name string. (A name column 94 includes respective names for users for whom knowledge profiles are maintained within the repository 50, col 13, lines 33-35), the user-document table 130 links documents to users, col 14, line 18)

20. As per claims 20 and 37, wherein the criteria comprises a recipient name string. (A name column 94 includes respective names for users for whom knowledge profiles are maintained within the repository 50, col 13, lines 33-35).

21. As per claim 21, 42 and 46, wherein the third field comprises a message body field. (an e-mail message, addressed to the KS mailbox 25, is received at the knowledge site management server 27 via the mail system interface 42, from the e-mail server 23. At step 164, terms and associated information are extracted from the electronic document, col 15, lines 10-11)

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22. As per claim 22, wherein the instruction comprises a null string and wherein step (c) comprises performing a default action on the predetermined set of email messages. (As a default condition, a record for a third party within the user table indicates the third party as being a "non-interactive" user, col 30, lines 46-48)

23. As per claims 23 and 38, a method for managing a predetermined set of email messages on a source email server from a remote email network, said method comprising the steps of-

- a) populating a database with subscriber email addresses corresponding to subscriber accounts authorized to remotely manage email messages; (the method 301 commences at step 302, and then proceeds to step 306, where a document term within an electronic document generated by a user (i.e., the "query" user) is identified, col 21, lines 11-17)
- (b) receiving an email message at the source email server, wherein said email message has a destination email address in a first field, a code in a second field and an instruction in a third field, wherein said destination e-mail address corresponds to a subscriber account on the remote email network; (When the message 85 is sent over the normal e-mail transport, the following events occur: Recipients on the "to:" and "cc:" lists will receive a normal message with an extra header containing the encoded and encrypted options. This header is normally not displayed by systems that read e-mail and can be ignored by recipients; the recipients will not be aware that the knowledge gathering system has received a blind copy of the message; and If the sender chooses to archive a copy of the message 85, the e-mail address of the knowledge gathering system 28 will be retained in the "bcc" field as a reminder that the message was sent to the knowledge gathering server, col 13, lines 1-20)
- (c) checking the database to determine a permission for the destination email address-, and (for example, of a query against a knowledge profile database, is able visually to distinguish between profile terms that have been

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owner-submitted and those that are not owner-submitted, col 32, lines 36-43)
(d) performing the instruction on the set of email messages if the permission is granted. (For example, a determination may be made as to whether a match occurred against any further terms responsive to a query, col 32, lines 26-36)

24. As per claim 41, wherein the second email message further comprises an instruction in a second predetermined field, and wherein said method further comprises the step of processing said instruction to manipulate the first email message according to the instruction. (For example, a determination may be made as to whether a match occurred against any further terms responsive to a query, col 32, lines 26-36)

25. As per claim 44, a method for remotely managing a first email message on a source email server from an email account on a remote email server, said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a second email message on the source server, wherein second email message has a code in a first predetermined field; (When the message 85 is sent over the normal e-mail transport, the following events occur: Recipients on the "to:" and "cc:" lists will receive a normal message with an extra header containing the encoded and encrypted options. This header is normally not displayed by systems that read e-mail and can be ignored by recipients; the recipients will not be aware that the knowledge gathering system has received a blind copy of the message; and If the sender chooses to archive a copy of the message 85, the e-mail address of the knowledge gathering system 28 will be retained in the "bcc" field as a reminder that the message was sent to the knowledge gathering server, col 13, lines 1-20)

(b) checking a database for a subscriber account corresponding to a message sender field in the second email message; and (for example, of a query against a knowledge profile database, is able visually to distinguish between profile terms

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that have been owner-submitted and those that are not owner-submitted, col 32, lines 36-43)

(c) processing the first email message according to an instruction in a second predetermined field. (For example, a determination may be made as to whether a match occurred against any further terms responsive to a query, col 32, lines 26-36)

26. As per claim 49, a system for managing a predetermined set of email messages on a source email server from a remote email network, said system comprising:

(a) a registration database on the source server, said registration database comprising a local subscriber account on said source server and an associated destination email address on the remote email network; (the method 301 commences at step 302, and then proceeds to step 306, where a document term within an electronic document generated by a user (i.e., the "query" user) is identified, col 21, lines 11-17)

(b) a first module on the source email server, wherein when a first email message having a code in a first field, an instruction in a second field of the first email message and a sender email address in a sender field is received on the source email server, said first module determines if the sender email address is in the database; and (for example, of a query against a knowledge profile database, is able visually to distinguish between profile terms that have been owner-submitted and those that are not owner-submitted, col 32, lines 36-43)

(c) a second module on the source server, wherein if the sender email address is in the database, the second module performs the instruction on the set of email messages. (For example, a determination may be made as to whether a match occurred against any further terms responsive to a query, col 32, lines 26-36)

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mitra Kianersi whose telephone number is (703) 305-4650. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (703) 308-5221. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mitra Kianersi
April/12/2004


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